

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page

Date:

Press

CPYRGHT

SHORTAGE OF SCIENTISTS
(The Washington Post and
Times Herald)

Chairman Lewis L. Strauss of the Atomic Energy Commission came home from the Geneva Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy filled with concern over the inadequacies of American scientific training. Like so many scientists and public officials, he was impressed by the disturbing fact that Russia appears to be training far more scientists and engineers than is this country. He quoted Allen Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence, as having reported that under present programs Russia in this decade will graduate 1,200,000 scientists and engineers, compared with about 900,000 in the United States. In a speech here the other night, Mr. Strauss said that "our own colleges and universities are turning out only about half the number of engineers we require today."

Members of the Government, educators and scientists as well as the press have repeatedly called attention to this shortage. It is encouraging to have Mr. Strauss add the weight of his influence to the attempt to awaken the country to the importance of doing something about it. We wonder if part of the answer was not indicated at the meeting of the District Board of Education held the same day Mr. Strauss spoke. There 14 speakers presented a shocking picture of crowded classrooms, teacher shortages and insufficient textbooks. While these conditions prevail in the elementary and secondary schools, as they clearly do prevail here and in other cities, the future technical students do not receive adequate training, and many who might otherwise become scientists and engineers do not have their interest aroused at the proper age.